

EQUAL RIGHTS

"MEN AND WOMEN SHALL HAVE EQUAL RIGHTS THROUGHOUT THE
UNITED STATES AND EVERY PLACE SUBJECT TO ITS JURISDICTION"

Amendment to the United States Constitution now before Congress

CALL . . .

To The . . . BIENNIAL
CONVENTION OF 1940



The 1940 Biennial Convention of the National Woman's Party will take place at the Mayflower Hotel, Washington, D. C., Friday through Sunday, December 6, 7, and 8.

The last two years have brought us nearer our goal.

We are meeting in the light of a great victory. For the first time in history a National Political Party has declared itself in favor of submitting the Equal Rights Amendment to the states.

Let us gather together with the determination to dedicate ourselves to the supreme effort of using this great advance to secure in the immediate future Constitutional equality for women.

Members, we need every one of you. Come to listen, work, plan, and to participate. Come with determination to gain equal rights—Constitutional equality.

ANNA KELTON WILEY, *Chairman,*
JANE NORMAN SMITH, *First Vice-Chairman,*
AMY C. RANSOME, *Second Vice-Chairman,*
MARGARET C. WILLIAMS, *Third Vice-Chairman,*
LAURA M. BERRIEN, *Treasurer,*
REBEKAH S. GREATHOUSE, *Secretary,*
EDWINA AVERY, *National Convention Chairman.*

NATIONAL WOMAN'S PARTY
Washington, D. C.

Equal Rights



Official Organ
of the
NATIONAL WOMAN'S PARTY
Capitol Hill Washington, D. C.
Phone Atlantic 1210
Published Monthly at
144 B Street, N. E., Washington, D. C.
Entered as second-class matter at the post-
office at Washington, D. C., under the Act of
March 3, 1879.
Subscription, \$1.00 a Year
Foreign Subscription, \$1.50

MRS. HARVEY W. WILEY Editor
DORA G. OGLE Business Manager

CONTRIBUTING EDITORS

ALMA LUTZ INEZ HAYNES IRWIN
EDITH HOUGHTON HOOKER HELEN ROBBINS BITTERMANN

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

NATIONAL OFFICERS

Chairman, Mrs. Harvey W. Wiley, D. C.
1st Vice-Chairman, Jane Norman Smith, N. Y.
2nd Vice-Chairman, Mrs. Amy C. Ransome, Calif.
3rd Vice-Chairman, Mrs. Margaret C. Williams, Conn.
Treasurer, Miss Laura M. Berrien, Ga.
Secretary, Rebekah Greathouse, D. C.

Nina E. Allender, D. C. Alma Lutz, Mass.
Marie Moore Forrest, D. C. Perle S. Mesta, Okla.
Mrs. George Halsey, Md. Anita Pollitzer, S. C.
Florence Bayard Hilles, Del. Clara Snell Wolfe, Ohio
Alice Paul, D. C., (Ex-officio as Chairman of World Woman's Party)

"EQUAL RIGHTS" is being sent to all members this month because it contains the Call to the Convention which will not be sent separately. Anybody wishing to receive later issues should send one dollar to Mrs. Dora G. Ogle, business manager, 144 B Street, N. E., Washington, D. C.

Mrs. Hilles calls our attention to a letter from Dr. Charles A. Beard which is quoted on page 267 of "Challenging Years" by Harriot Stanton Blatch and Alma Lutz. In this letter, Dr. Beard discusses the effectiveness of the political action taken by the National Woman's Party in 1916 and attributes the passage of the Suffrage Amendment in large measure to this activity.

The October *Life and Labor Bulletin*, circular of the Women's Trade Union League, includes a letter from a member who grieves over the Equal Rights plank. The letter says among other things, "The Federal Constitution itself doesn't discriminate against women, does it?" Perhaps when the correspondent learns that the answer is "Yes—as the Supreme Court interprets it," she will join the National Woman's Party and cheer the Republican plank.

Helen Hunt West

After four years as editor of "Equal Rights," Helen Hunt West has returned to her home in Florida. During that period she served also on the Congressional Committee and as its acting Chairman for three years. Before coming to Washington, she had been Chairman of the Florida Branch of the Party and did active work for that branch whenever she was on vacation. In fact, Helen has worked so hard, this might have been a real obituary instead of a farewell. But Helen is still going strong—a private for the first time since her picket days—a very active private.

CHALLENGE

By CAROLINE BABCOCK

"Out of every success, arises a condition which makes a greater struggle necessary."

The door of opportunity is ajar; it is not open. Shall we push it open? How? That is your responsibility, dear member of the National Woman's Party who reads these words. Pick up your telephone. Make an appointment with your Republican candidate for Congress and for the Senate if your State elects a Senator this year. (Any newspaper will furnish full information.) Go to them, backed by the authority of the Republican National Convention. Ask for their support if elected to Congress. As most candidates are perfectly willing to stand on the platform of their party, you will probably have no trouble in getting an affirmative reply. Then go to the Democratic candidates. Many are with us. The action of the Chicago Convention does not represent a unanimous opinion of that party. Tell them you have the Republican endorsement. Explain that we are asking only for submission. I cheerfully prophesy that if each member of the National Woman's Party accepts this responsibility, which is clearly hers, a Congress will be returned pledged to the Equal Rights Amendment. Headquarters cannot do this for you. You must do it yourself and for all the women of this nation. What does it involve? Perhaps four visits; perhaps more if you meet opposition. Report to Headquarters immediately so that we may be informed and you may receive whatever help we can give. The door of equal opportunity, of constitutional equality for men and women, for your sons and daughters, for the future race, will be pushed wide open if each one of us does her full duty between now and November fifth.

State Planks

Since the adoption of the Equal Rights Plank in the Republican National Platform, a number of the State Conventions have expressed their approval. Two at least have gone a step further and advocated ratification. The New York Republican Convention endorsed the National Platform as a whole. The Minnesota Republican Convention adopted a separate plank in language almost identical with that of the National Platform.

The Ohio Republican Platform contains the following:

"*Equality in Citizenship*: We favor Congressional submission of a Constitutional Amendment to the several States, providing for equal rights for men and women. We pledge approval of such amendment by the General Assembly of Ohio."

The California Republican Platform contains the following:

"We accept the plank of the National Platform which proposes an amendment giving equal rights for men and women and pledge our support to the ratification of the amendment."

You Can Help

1. By coming to the Convention.
2. By obtaining new members.
3. By heeding the challenge on this page.
4. By sending a financial contribution for organization, office help or "Equal Rights."

The Republican Convention

*"There comes a tide in the affairs of men
Which taken at the flood, leads on to fortune."*

WHEN the Republican Convention adopted the report of the Resolutions Committee, that tide was at flood for all believers in the Equal Rights Amendment.

When the listeners in the gallery heard the words of the Equal Rights plank, they thought of all the workers who were absent but whose planning and persistent effort were now flowering into victory.

What had happened? Pennsylvania women had risen to the challenge of the meeting of the Republican Convention in Philadelphia. As a body, as individuals, they had worked unceasingly and given generously. Senator George Wharton Pepper had agreed with their program and offered to address the Resolutions Committee on behalf of the Amendment. Women from many states had come to Philadelphia to tell their delegates that they wanted a plank calling for submission of this question to the states. Women in all states were

interviewing their delegates before departure to Philadelphia or sending letters and telegrams after them.

The Resolutions Committee was addressed on behalf of the Amendment by representatives of the National Association of Women Lawyers, the National Woman's Party, Pilot Club International, and by Mrs. Alma Ambrose, who was a member of the Convention. The question was referred to a sub-committee, the chairman of which was Honorable Roy A. Vitousek. Mr. Vitousek was a convinced believer in equal rights before he came to Philadelphia. The sub-committee approved. The drafting committee approved. The full committee approved. The convention approved. There can be no doubt that the plank as adopted represents the sincere convictions of the Resolutions Committee and of the Republican Convention.

Plank

"We favor submission by Congress to the States of an amendment to the Constitution providing for equal rights for men and women." (Adopted June 27, 1940)

The Democratic Convention

NO ONE who attended the Democratic National Convention will ever be able to think of it apart from the intense heat and discomfort which prevailed most of the time. A crowded, airless room, into which members of the committee could scarcely force their way, and a narrow corridor leading to it, were the accommodations for the Resolutions Committee which, said the Chairman, Senator Wagner, "would sit until everyone was heard if it took day and night for a week."

The following organizations through their representatives appeared in behalf of the Equal Rights Amendment: American Medical Women's Association, National Association of Women Lawyers, National Woman's Party, the Association of American Women Dentists, the Pilot International, The Equal Rights Amendment Committee of the Allied Clubs of Philadelphia, the Women Teachers Organization of Philadelphia, Stenographers, Typists, Bookkeepers and Assistants Local, 19, 266 of Akron, Ohio; the Illinois Council of Business and Professional Women; the Federated Democratic Women's Clubs of Pennsylvania. Appearing on his own behalf, to express the position of fair-minded men throughout this country, was George Gordon Battle.

Mrs. Helen Hunt West started the ball. Her argument was carefully reasoned and at the close of her speech, the Resolutions Committee detained her, firing question after question, and thus enabling her to cover the ground thoroughly.

When Emma Guffey Miller arose to address the Resolutions Committee they greeted her as their own. Representing the 250,000 Federated Democratic women of Pennsylvania, Mrs. Miller demanded a plank at least as strong as that adopted by the Republicans. No one who heard her could doubt that the Equal Rights Cause had won a second victory this summer.

But an influence outside the committee-room was about to register in that crowded, heated, unventilated melee where Resolutions Committee, press, witnesses and spectators were really suffering and where the continued, sustained, intelligent application of the committee was almost more than human beings could be capable of. A former member of Congress, now running again in Oregon, Nan Honeyman, rose to read two letters—one was from a labor leader and one was from

Mrs. Roosevelt. There was confusion as to which was which, but finally it emerged that Mrs. Roosevelt was opposing the Amendment. There was, of course, nothing new in this opposition, but it was again brought forward at a strategic time, when had she not spoken, it seemed highly probable that the Democratic Resolutions Committee would have voted to submit to the States a measure already supported by so many Democratic Senators and Congressmen. The National Woman's Party was urging submission to the States. Speakers had not asked for endorsement of the principle of Equal Rights. Mrs. Miller had been particularly emphatic on that point, but Mrs. Roosevelt's letter dealt only with the principle itself which proponents had contended was too important and far-reaching to be decided by less important bodies than the State Legislatures.

When the Resolutions Committee reported, it was found that they had adopted the wording suggested by the Women's Advisory Committee. Mrs. MacAllister, Director of the Women's Division, had appointed this committee of 18, not representative of the States. This committee had held no hearings. Mrs. Miller, Democratic committeewoman from Pennsylvania, had not been invited to attend. No friend of the Amendment had made a single argument on its behalf. No one knew when or where it met.

The workers had to comfort themselves in the knowledge that few stones had been left unturned to bring about the adoption of the Equal Rights plank. Hundreds of women had cooperated in Chicago and at home and at least a dozen women's organizations had thrown their weight into the argument. And of course, even though the most powerful men in the Democratic Party had not been convinced, the friendship and support of many fine men had been won.

Plank

"We will continue our efforts to achieve equality of opportunity for men and women without impairing the social legislation which promotes true equality by safeguarding the health, safety and economic welfare of women workers. The right to work for compensation in both public and private employment is an inalienable privilege of women as well as men without distinction as to marital status." (Adopted July 17, 1940)

A Feminist Thinks It Over

By ALMA LUTZ

THE Supreme Courts of three States, Massachusetts, Connecticut, and Indiana have recently handed down decisions which dangerously limit women's rights to paid work. The Full Bench of the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court ruled that the Somerville School Committee was within its rights in banning married women teachers. Four teachers who had been discharged because of marriage claimed that the action was "arbitrary, discriminatory, and unconstitutional." The decision of the Court read in part: "This Court has twice decided that the adoption of a policy against the employment of married teachers in public schools is not arbitrary, discriminatory, or irrational and lies within the field of discretion of the school committee to whom is entrusted the determination of questions of policy. . . . Our views have recently received the support of the Supreme Court of Indiana."

The Supreme Court of Connecticut in a unanimous decision ruled that the law prohibiting the employment of women in restaurants after 10 P. M. was valid. A group of women musicians who had been thrown out of work by this law had sought an injunction against the Labor Department restraining it from enforcing the law against them. But this time even entertainers were not immune.

Nothing could make it clearer than these three decisions that women must speedily secure the passage of the Equal Rights Amendment or they will find their opportunities of earning a living seriously curtailed.

Treasure Island

Another dramatic, educating episode of four months at a World's Fair has just ended at San Francisco. Like the New York Fair booth during 1939 a booth at the "Pageant of the Pacific," sponsored by Mrs. Amy C. Ransome and directed by Emily Rayburn Kneiss, carried the message of the National Woman's Party directly to about 15,000 people during the summer of 1940.

The guest books were signed by interested people from every State in the Union, and from Hawaii, Alaska, Peru, China, Australia and India.

For 128 days the exhibit was open continuously to visitors, many of whom studied the literature while resting comfortably in the booth, surrounded by banners and pictures of the great women leaders, "the Amendment" itself hanging high in full view of every passerby.

On the desk in front were recent books by Alma Lutz, Blatch and Lutz, Ernest R. Groves and Emmeline Pethick-Lawrence. Representing earlier days were Rheta Childe Dorr's "Susan B. Anthony," Doris Stevens' "Jailed for Freedom," and Inez Haynes Irwin's "Angels and Amazons."

Two radio broadcasts by the director and three "Special Events" programs were given, the last one, a "Question and Answer Forum" conducted by Helena Hill Weed followed by a Tea in Hostess House.

The effectiveness of the booth may never be fully known but it will doubtless have served to implement in advance the Equal Rights Amendment and pave the way for its ratification in the States, especially in California, the second State to pledge it in its recent Republican State Convention.

Illinois

Chicago, the second city in America, is being won for the Equal Rights Amendment. At an organization meeting called on August 19th, Mrs. Lorraine Blair was elected chairman. Mrs. Blair is the founder of the Women's Finance Forum and well known in insurance and banking circles.

"Fifty-seven candidates for Congress, that is our responsibility," said Mrs. Blair when interviewed for Equal Rights. "We shall talk with each one and explain the dangers that lie at our very door until this Amendment is adopted. The Illinois delegation to Congress is going to stand firm for the extension of full citizenship to women and for the constitutional protection of our daughters as well as of our sons," she predicted.

All these fifty-seven candidates are invited, with the rest of Chicago, to a luncheon in the Congress Hotel on Saturday, October 19th, at which Miss Vivian Kellems, President of the Kellems Products Co. of New York City, and Mrs. Emma Guffey Miller, Democratic National Committeewoman from Pennsylvania, will be the chief speakers.

In order to clarify the public mind, Miss Rose Cunningham of Iowa is prepared to debate the Equal Rights question at 10:30 the same morning if an opponent can be found from an organization opposing the Amendment. The League of Women Voters of Chicago has declined the invitation. The question will be: "Resolved, that the adoption of the Equal Rights Amendment is necessary for the protection of the women of this country."

As the reservations are going very fast and the number is necessarily limited, members and friends in and near Chicago should apply for tickets without delay to Alma Rasmussen, 540 North Michigan Avenue, Shop 2, Superior 3209. The tickets for the luncheon are \$1.25; the tables hold ten. The tickets for the debate are 75c.

CREATED EQUAL

By ALMA LUTZ

Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Susan B. Anthony, Lucretia Mott, and Lucy Stone live again in this vivid story of a dramatic period in American history.

"There is not a dull line in it."

—JANE NORMAN SMITH.

"It is a splendid job, and the art with which the contrasting personalities of Susan and Elizabeth have been built is nothing short of genius."

—BETTY GRAM SWING.

"A splendid story of proven inspiration."

—EMMELINE PETHICK LAWRENCE.

"As fascinating as any romance I ever read."

—DR. MAUDE GLASGOW.

\$3.00

THE JOHN DAY COMPANY 2 W. 45th St., New York

CHALLENGING YEARS

By HARRIOT STANTON BLATCH and ALMA LUTZ

Mrs. Blatch's interesting memoirs include the story of the colorful campaign of the Woman's Party for the Federal Amendment and her opposition to special labor laws for women.

Mrs. Blatch's keen mind, her grasp of world affairs, and her views on woman's part in solving the problems of civilization make her memoirs a significant contribution to these troubled times.

\$3.50

A Vassar 75th Anniversary Publication

G. P. PUTNAM'S SONS

2 W. 45th St., New York